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high seas. Our government, however, object to this treaty as a standard in maritime cases, and state that the French government have, in several instances, violated the provisions therein contained. Not having a copy of this treaty in my possession, but having no doubt that it is accessible to some of your correspondents, permit me to request your publishing it in your magazine. It will enable the public to judge how far our government are justifiable in rejecting the provisions of this treaty as a rule in their intercourse with the civilized nations of the world.

A CONSTANT READER.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE ADVENTURES OF AN ANTIQUE
OAKEN TABLE.

Hominem pagina nostra sapit.

MARTIAL.

HAVING accompanied a friend a few miles to Gracehill, a settlement of the Moravians, in the county Antrim, while we sauntered through its streets, (which more resembled the finely gravelled walks of a garden, than the streets of a country village,) we were led to observe that the seeming restrictions of the sisterhood were more than compensated by their agreeable intercourse with each other, producing in all a similarity of mind; an easy elegance and refinement of manners; and an emulation to excel in all the graces and attainments which constitute pure and unadulterated happiness. By a happy division of their time, in appropriating to devotion, to work, to amusement, and to sleep, a particular portion; so that the affairs of one should not intrude to perplex or embitter the other, and instead of spending their

leisure hours in idle frivolity, they choose rather to taste the sublimer pleasures of reason, to observe the frame, connexions, and symmetry of things, and give scope to the delicious and innocent wanderings of the imagination, with a secret pleasure, which none but those of the same regular habits are capable of enjoying: we were tempted to exclaim, "Happy people, who have exploded all the formidable gloom, and dullness from a Monastic life, and left it little else save the ceremony of the name,"

When we found ourselves somewhat fatigued by the heat, and stepped into the only solitary inn which the place afforded, for shelter and refreshment. After a slight repast, my friend asked my permission to transact a little business with some person in the neighbourhood, and left me alone till his return,

One might be induced to think, that a place like this is not the best calculated to enjoy the luxury of undisturbed contemplation but fancy, fickle goddess, is oft-times as capricious in the choice of situation, as she is in the objects of her inspirations. After pacing for a few minutes the clean swept mortar-floor; smiling at the rustic memorials of former guests, who had vainly attempted to interest others, in the predominant feelings of their minds, and covered the window shutters with amatory effusions, or the licentious flashes of Bacchanalian intemperance. I sat down, tired with the sameness of sentiment, which they all discovered, and casting my eyes over the homely furniture of the little parlour; an old fashioned oak table, whose polished posts, and glossy leaf, bespoke the notability of the thrifty landlady, particularly attracted my attention. If that table, thought I, was endued with the powers of memory and articulation, it might un-

fold a tale really interesting and instructive. Pursuing this train of thought, and continuing undisturbed by the intrusion of company, I insensibly fell fast asleep; and whether from a predisposition of ideas, the effervescences of an active fancy, or the agency of a sportive supernatural being, I will not pretend to determine, but methought I was still in the same situation, and that nothing suffered mutation, save the old table, which assumed by degrees the shape of a human being, and addressed me as follows:—

“I should have descended into the murky cave of eternal oblivion, there to have mingled with the unhonoured names of poetic perriwig makers, political taylors, blustering braggadocios, witty chimney-sweepers, jack-daws, and joint-stools, but that my better fortune has thrown you into my way, to whom I am permitted to relate the incidents of a life, which a few more years will terminate for ever, unless by its relation, you can restore me to an ideal immortality in the minds of posterity. But to my story. I was reared, Sir, on the Southern side of a hill, not many miles distant, and being a straight and handsome tree, I was fancied by an old gentleman, who owned the estate, having heard I was planted by the hands of his grandfather, and wishing to preserve me as a token of respect to his memory, had me fashioned into the shape you have lately seen me relinquish. He was a kind of virtuosi, and you would have fancied I formed a part of the necessary appendages of a juggler, from the vast assemblage of rare and uncouth figures, which I had frequently the honour of supporting; but the old gentleman getting at length tired of the world, and I also tired of the company of mummies, snakes, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and antidilu-

vian frying-pans, from which I was relieved by an extravagant heir, by whom I was loaded with innumerable washes, powders, pomatums, billetdoux, complimentary cards, play-bills, and lottery-tickets. At length, he married, and his spouse fancying me as an article worthy a place in her own chamber, I for some months bore a delicate load of chintzes, fringes, Mechlin-laces, and taffetas, till she was happily blest with an heir to the estate; and remembering to have heard a neighbouring lady express a wish for a piece of furniture like myself, I was conveyed as a present to her, in order that my place might be occupied by a cradle. You may guess that I felt somewhat grieved, at quitting a family who had brought me into the world; but little did I know of the many changes I had been doomed to. My present mistress, an antiquated prudish maiden, placed me in the chamber of a beautiful young lady, her niece, but she happening to elope with a smart young officer, I was confined to a dark garret, as an accomplice in her guilt, by the old duenna; and to be completely revenged, she herself married an old rake, who had no property left by his former debauches, but a large stock of smooth good-breeding, and having a fancy for the old lady's possessions, plied her to purpose, with the language of adulation, when she disinherited my young mistress, for following the dictates of nature and of love, and committed the self-same crime, purely to gratify her own spiteful malignity. I bore my confinement with the best patience I was capable of, till the tables turned in my favour, by turning the old woman off the stage of mortality, and I, amongst the rest of her furniture, was forced to endure the knock of a noisy auctioneer, who declared me the pro-

perty of a neighbouring parson. With him I had sometimes the felicity of bearing a large commentary, or voluminous Concordance, which often gave place to the Farmer's Magazine, a dissertation on grasses, a treatise on farriery, or the experienced Cow-leech, till at length he was removed to a benefice of superior income, and I transferred to a schoolmaster, who had given him some private instructions in elocution, as a particular mark of his regard. Mr. Birch honoured me by constantly standing before him in his school-room, and I have often gladly borne his pressure while he wrote the first line for his scholars, or filled, in his leisure moments, a lease for some of their fathers, or an indenture for some adult, who had been taught by him to articulate his A, B, C. My ears were often pleasantly assailed by the repetition of moods, declensions, nouns, and pronouns, and I have felt grateful to the good man, when I have seen the little trembling urchin called to his tribunal to give account for some miching moments, forgiven—or when he dealt punishment, for some tyrannous misdemeanours, to the bigger boys, who ruled despotically over the less; but I was obliged to quit this happy situation, by the poor man's having, with some of his neighbours, caught the mania of emigration, and sought, (perhaps laudably sought,) to better his condition on the trans-Atlantic shores. He had before his departure bestowed me to a moon-struck admirer of Pierian nymphs, but as his works sold rather slowly for his demands, and he preferring to starve rather than demean himself with the manual drudgery of little men, one morning, while all the powers of his mind were employed on an epic production, which he flattered himself would eter-

nize his name, and place him on an equal footing with his most opulent acquaintances, the door was burst open by one of those harpies of the law, vulgarly called a bailiff; and all his effects seized at the suit of his landlord. Nothing could appease him; he was alike deaf to promises and entreaties; our poet, as he indignantly stepped down stairs, swore that his heart was made of more tough materials, than that of Cerberus himself; and that the lyre of Orpheus could hardly humanize it; but *he*, determined to gain the laurel at all events, enlisted in a marching regiment, and I have never since heard of him. I was next given by my landlord a good penny-worth to a miserly old hunk in the neighbourhood; and never did I pass a few years more uncomfortably, than in his possession. I began to feel something of the lassitude of old age, on being confined to the dark corner of a damp room, in which the old fellow had immured his riches. Often have I seen the sordid wretch shivering over me, and gloat with extacy on the glittering metal placed on my leaf; often have I wished him thrown into the sea; with all his ponderous purses tied about his neck; but let me not censure, where I can applaud; he bestowed the most valuable of my former master's property, viz. his poetic productions, which lay long in my drawer unheeded, to a young lady, "smit with the love of song," for the paltry consideration of a suit of thread bare cloaths, belonging to her father; and he sold *me* for a few shillings above what I had cost him, to a former landlord of this inn, who had me refitted, and two fine folding leaves added to me, in order that I might be of greater service. Variety is said to be the soul of life, and of this, in my present situation, I am not in want; every

